

## **News Release**

**United States Navy** 

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## **New Orleans Personnel Support Detachment Beta Testing NSIPS**

By Maria LoVasco Tolleson SPAWAR Information Technology Center Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — It's been nearly two years since the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System was fielded to the Navy Reserve in February 2000. The Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System, known as NSIPS, is a pay and personnel human resource system developed at the Space and Naval Warfare Information Technology Center in New Orleans by the Program Executive Office for Information Technology.

It replaces four legacy systems which keep track of pay and personnel issues for both the Reserve Component and active duty Navy: Source Data System (SDS), Uniform Microcomputer Disbursing System (UMIDS), Diary Message Reporting System (DMRS) and Reserve Standard Training Administrative and Readiness Support for Manpower and Personnel (RSTARS-MP).

With the release of NSIPS version 0.1.3. significant problems have been resolved and trouble ticket submissions are rapidly declining for Reserve pay problems.

This past July NSIPS began beta testing aboard the USS Monterey and at the Personnel Support Detachment, Naval Support Activity, New Orleans.

LCDR Priscilla Kingry, Officer-in-charge of the PSD said, "We liked being the guinea pigs because we got the first look at the system."

Prior to beta testing NSIPS underwent a tech evaluation and an operational evaluation in January 2000 which included other PSDs and ships. PN1 Kenneth Rice and PN1 Evelyn Brady, along with civilian local area network administrator Janice Blake were the main testers in the early stages at the New Orleans Personnel Support Detachment.

"After initial testing, PEO (IT) was so confident with what they saw that we quit using Source Data Systems and went exclusively with NSIPS rather than do parallel testing," Kingry said. The rest of the Navy currently runs SDS.

Kingry credits Capt. Mark Moranville, NSIPS Program Manager, and the NSIPS team at the SPAWAR ITC with the minimal problems she has encountered. "It has lots of built in screens and is very user friendly," she said. "My PNs are very pleased with it."

The Personnel Support Detachment supports about 2,800 personnel, making it an ideal size for testing. The only drawback is that the detachment may go a while before a particular scenario comes up which can be tested on the system. "We don't get a lot of frequency on some actions," she explained. "It might be weeks before we see an enlistment, but thus far we've had a good cross section of transactions."

Most of the Personnel Support Detachment's customers are in the New Orleans area; however, it also supports customers in Baton Rouge and Shreveport.

NSIPS feeds corporate systems at Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the Navy's Bureau of Personnel which in turn feeds back down to the Navy's Source Data System, so the data will be able to follow sailors currently supported by the New Orleans Personnel Support Detachment who eventually transfer out of the area to a Personnel Support Detachment still operating with the Source Data System.

"The problems we've seen, which are minimal and not directly related to NSIPS, deal with interoperability with other systems," Kingry said. "But the contractors at the ITC have been quite responsive." "It took a while for my PNs to learn it, naturally, because they were familiar with and comfortable with SDS," she said, "but they've come to really like NSIPS. It's Windows based and it's more intuitive, and that's a big plus."

The system uses a Graphical User Interface approach running on a Navy Standard Information Technology for the 21st Century computer configuration.

Once beta testing is completed NSIPS will be fielded on 226 ships and 95 Personnel Support Detachments worldwide starting in September 2001. It will store and report personnel and pay data for nearly 468,000 active duty and reserve Navy personnel. Future plans call for adding retirees and Individual Ready Reservists to the system.

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